

Rene e Diabete:

INTERAZIONI
FISIOPATOLOGICHE
E NOVITÀ TERAPEUTICHE

BOLOGNA | 20/21 GENNAIO 2023

Lo studio FIGARO

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Diapositiva preparata da PAOLA FIORETTO e ceduta alla Società Italiana di Diabetologia.
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FIGARO-DKD rationale



FIDELIO-DKD¹

Finerenone in reducing kidney failure and disease progression in DKD

- **FIDELIO-DKD** assessed the effects of finerenone on slowing CKD progression and reducing CV mortality and morbidity in patients with CKD and T2D
- Most patients included in the FIDELIO-DKD trial had **advanced CKD** (stages 3–4)

Complementary study

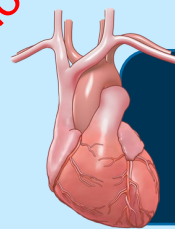


FIGARO-DKD²

Finerenone in reducing cardiovascular mortality and morbidity in DKD

FIGARO-DKD was designed to test whether finerenone reduced **CV mortality and morbidity** in patients with **earlier stages of CKD**, including:

- Patients with **stage 2–4 CKD** and moderately **elevated albuminuria**, or
- Patients with **stage 1–2 CKD** with **severely increased albuminuria**



A patient population at **high CV risk** that was **excluded from or understudied in FIDELIO-DKD**

FIGARO-DKD included a broad patient population across early-to-late disease stages of CKD in T2D

✓ Inclusion criteria

- T2D and CKD, defined as **either:**
 - UACR 30–300 mg/g and eGFR ≥ 25 – ≤ 90 ml/min/1.73 m² **or**
 - UACR ≥ 300 – ≤ 5000 mg/g and eGFR ≥ 60 ml/min/1.73 m²
- Treated with either an ACEi or an ARB at maximum tolerated dose
- Serum [K⁺] ≤ 4.8 mmol/l

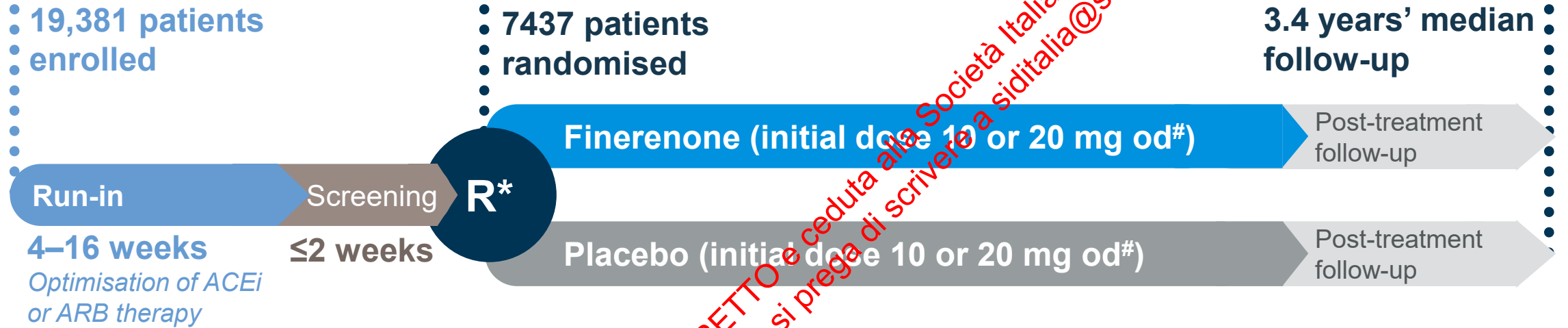
✗ Key exclusion criteria

- Non-diabetic kidney disease
- Uncontrolled hypertension*
- HbA1c >12%
- **Chronic symptomatic HFrEF#**
- Recent CV event
- Dialysis for acute kidney failure
- Kidney transplant

		Albuminuria categories (mg albumin/g creatinine)		
		A1 Normal to mildly increased <30	A2 Moderately increased 30–300	A3 Severely increased >300
GFR categories (ml/min/1.73 m ²)	G1 ≥90			
	G2 60–89			
	G3a 45–59			
	G3b 30–44			
	G4 15–29			
	G5 <15			

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FIGARO-DKD was a randomised, double-blind, event-driven, placebo-controlled phase III trial



Key endpoints

1. CV composite

Time to CV death,[‡] non-fatal MI, non-fatal stroke or hospitalisation for HF



2. Kidney composite

Time to kidney failure,[§] sustained ≥40% decrease in eGFR from baseline,[¶] or renal death**



At baseline, patients had well-controlled blood pressure and HbA1c

Selected baseline characteristic	Finerenone (n=3686)	Placebo (n=3666)
Age, years, mean $\pm$ SD	64.1 $\pm$ 9.1	64.1 $\pm$ 10.0
Male, n (%)	2528 (68.6)	2577 (70.3)
BMI, kg/m ² , mean $\pm$ SD	31.5 $\pm$ 6.0	31.4 $\pm$ 5.9
Duration of T2D, years, mean $\pm$ SD	14.5 $\pm$ 8.6	14.4 $\pm$ 8.4
Systolic blood pressure, mmHg, mean $\pm$ SD	135.8 $\pm$ 14.0	135.7 $\pm$ 14.1
Diastolic blood pressure, mmHg, mean $\pm$ SD	76.8 $\pm$ 9.5	76.8 $\pm$ 9.6
HbA1c, %, mean $\pm$ SD	7.7 $\pm$ 1.4	7.7 $\pm$ 1.4
Glucose-lowering therapies, n (%)	3607 (97.9)	3589 (97.9)
Insulin	2023 (54.9)	1970 (53.7)
Metformin	2561 (69.5)	2506 (68.4)
SGLT-2i	314 (8.5)	304 (8.3)
GLP-1RA	308 (8.4)	242 (6.6)

At baseline, patients had mild to moderate CKD, and most had UACR ≥ 30 mg/g and were treated with the maximum tolerated dose of an ACEi or ARB

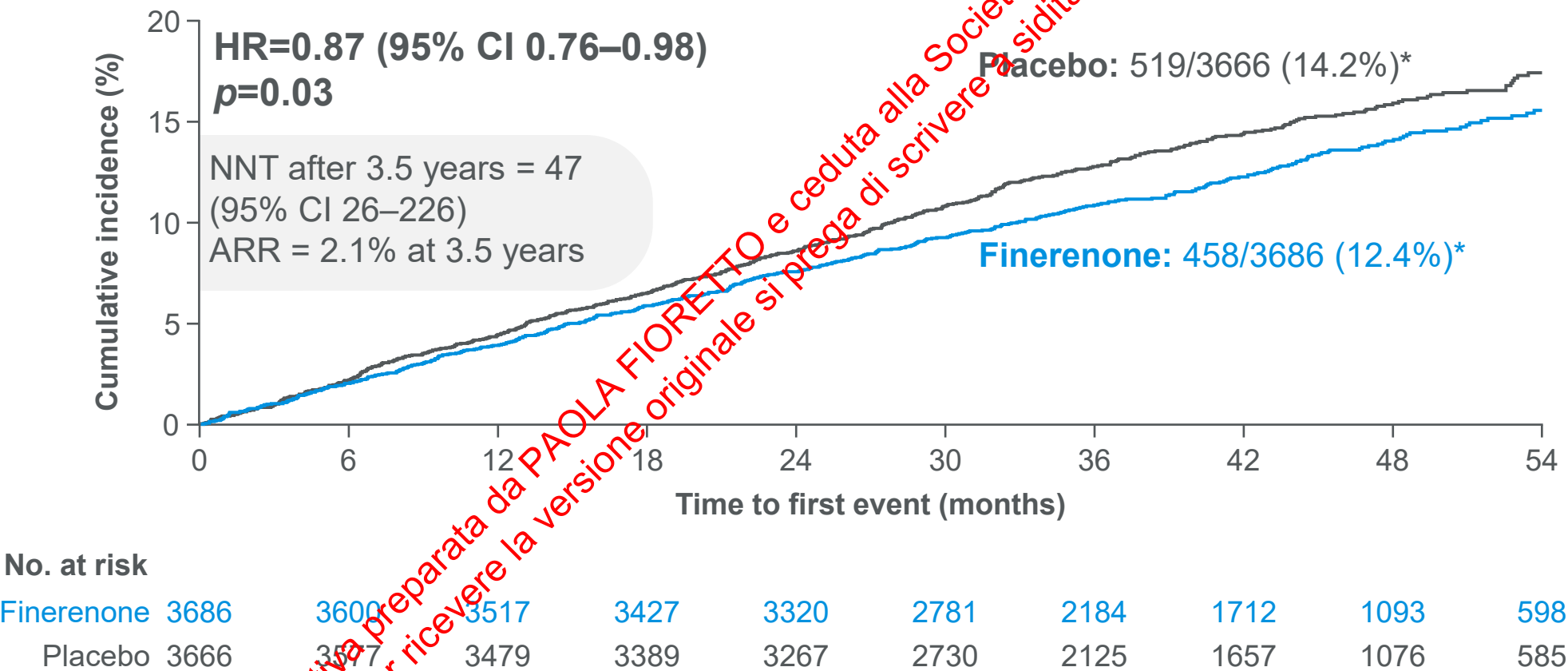
Selected baseline characteristic		Finerenone (n=1986)	Placebo (n=3666)
eGFR,* ml/min/1.73 m ² , mean $\pm$ SD		67.6 $\pm$ 21.7	68.0 $\pm$ 21.7
eGFR* at baseline, ml/min/1.73 m ² , n (%)	<25	15 (0.4)	12 (0.3)
	25–<45	641 (17.4)	610 (16.6)
	45–<60	745 (20.2)	789 (21.5)
	≥ 60	2285 (62.0)	2254 (61.5)
Median UACR, mg/g (IQR)		302 (105–749)	315 (111–731)
UACR at baseline, mg/g, n (%)*	≥ 300	1851 (50.2)	1878 (51.2)
	30–<300	1726 (46.8)	1688 (46.0)
	<30	109 (3.0)	98 (2.7)
Serum [K ⁺], mmol/l, mean $\pm$ SD		4.33 $\pm$ 0.43	4.33 $\pm$ 0.43
ACEi, n (%)		1576 (42.8)	1561 (42.6)
ARB, n (%)		2108 (57.2)	2104 (57.4)

At baseline, almost half of the patients had a history of CV disease, with coronary artery disease being the most common

Medical history at baseline, n (%)	Finerenone (n=3666)	Placebo (n=3666)
Diabetic retinopathy	1193 (32.4)	1098 (30.0)
Hypertension	3544 (96.1)	3517 (95.9)
History of CV disease	1676 (45.5)	1654 (45.1)
Coronary artery disease	1148 (31.1)	1147 (31.3)
Myocardial infarction	640 (17.4)	616 (16.8)
Peripheral artery disease	587 (15.9)	575 (15.7)
Ischaemic stroke	442 (12.0)	425 (11.6)
Heart failure	290 (7.9)	281 (7.7)
Diabetic neuropathy	1046 (28.4)	990 (27.0)

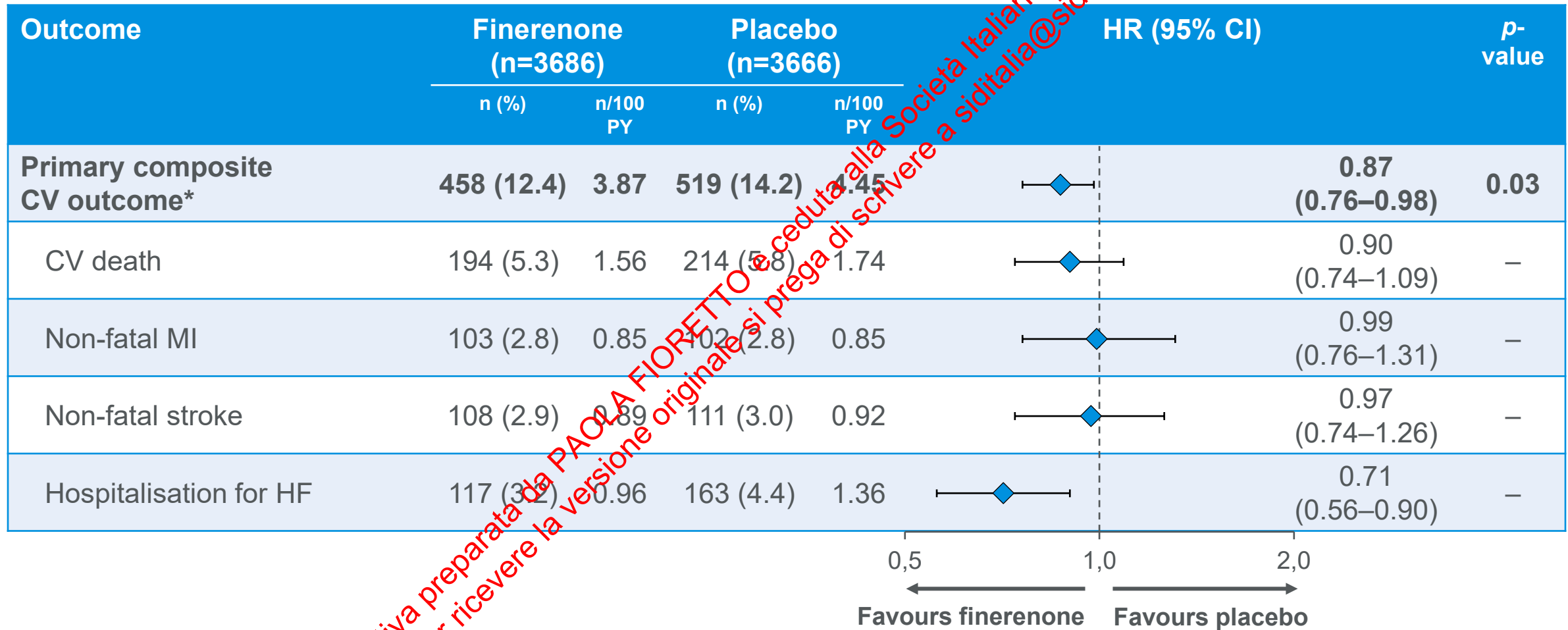
On top of maximum tolerated RAS therapy, finerenone significantly reduced the risk of the primary CV outcome by 13%

Time to CV death, non-fatal MI, non-fatal stroke or HHF



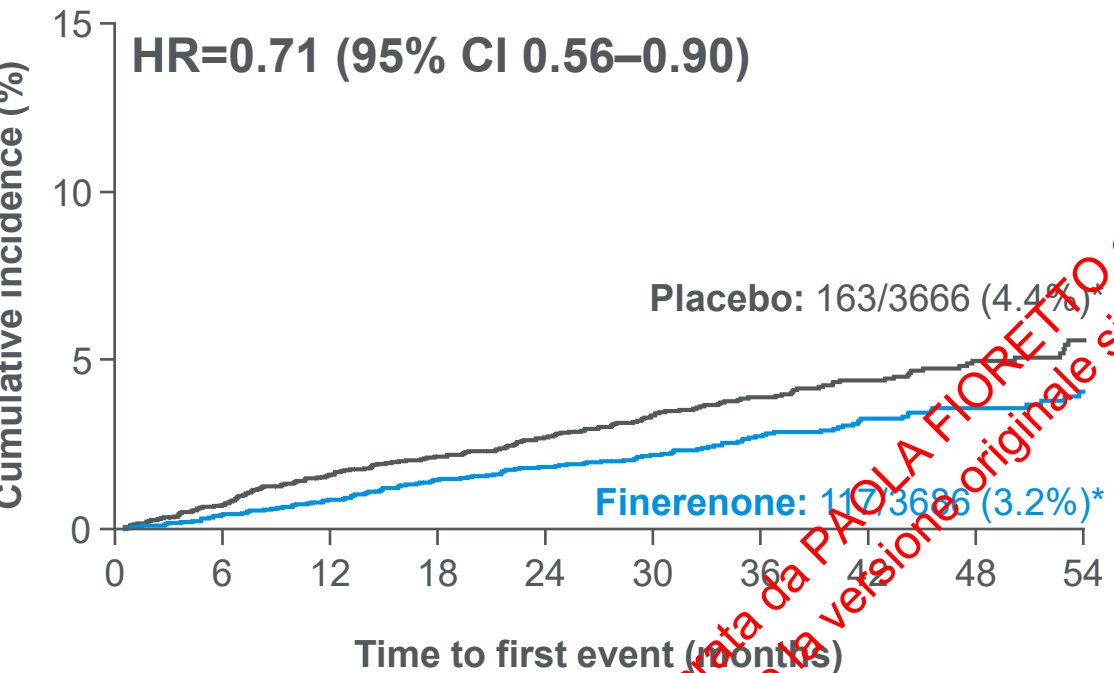
• Bakris GL, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2020;383:2219–2229

Finerenone had consistent effects on CV death, stroke, MI and hospitalisation for HF



Primary outcome components: Risk of HHF reduced by 29% and incidence of CV death was numerically lower with finerenone vs placebo

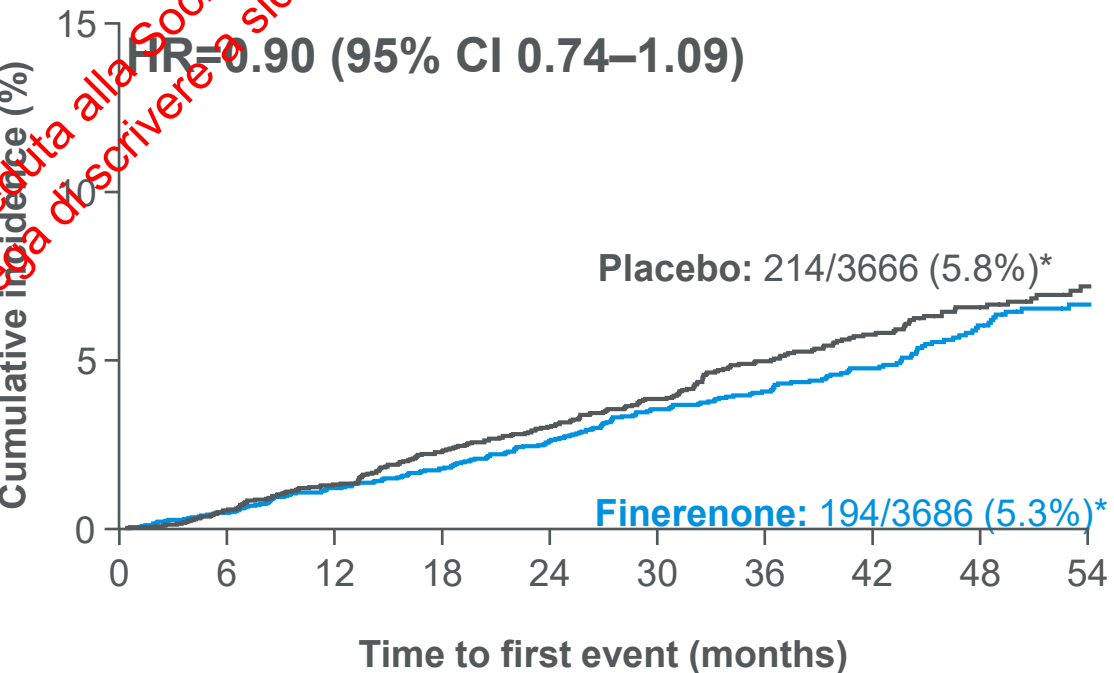
HHF (time to first event)



No. at risk

3686	3640	3581	3515	3429	2887	2284	1790	1142	629
3666	3610	3538	3471	3386	2640	2239	1751	1134	619

CV death (time to first event)

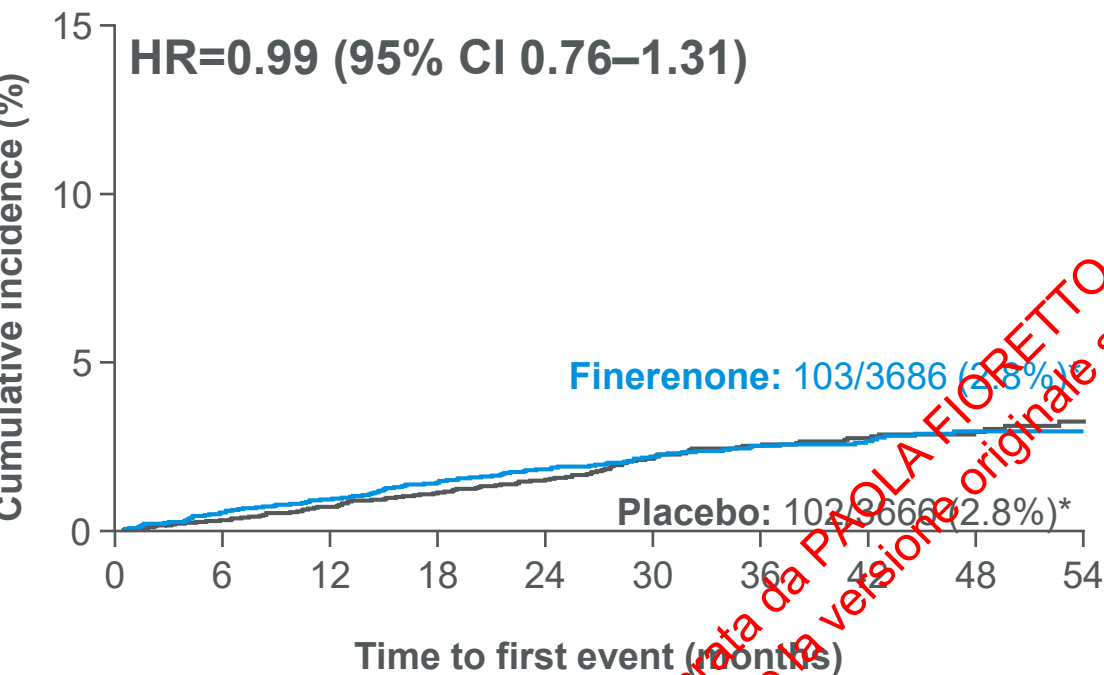


No. at risk

3686	3661	3620	3581	3503	2968	2358	1858	1187	653
3666	3639	3593	3539	3468	2938	2315	1820	1177	647

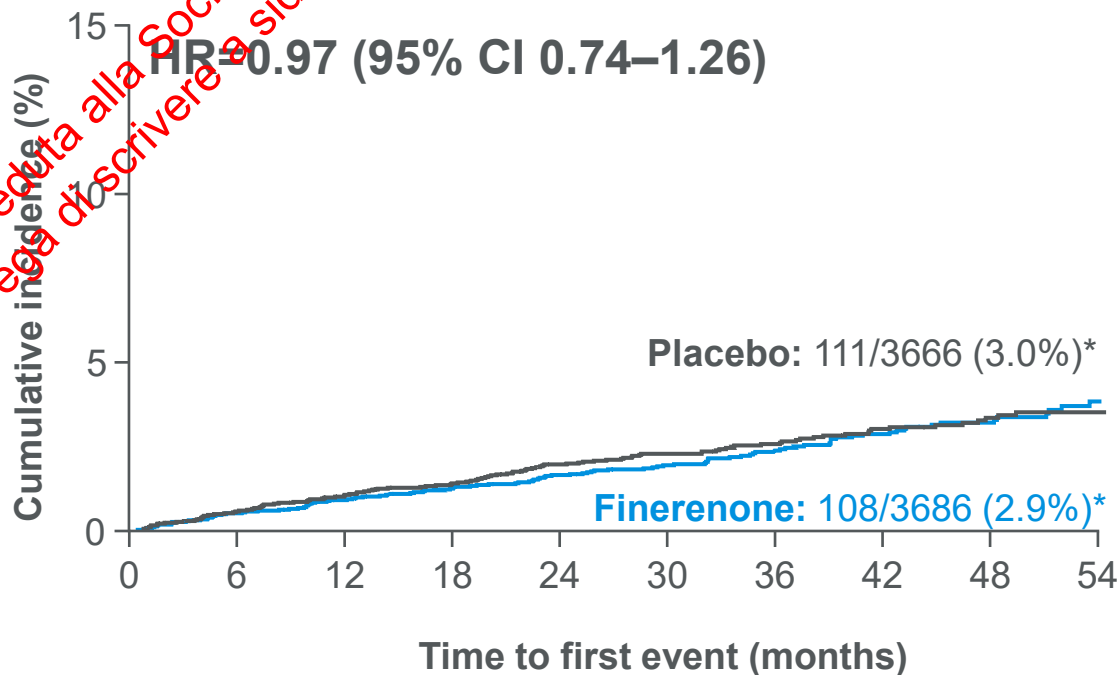
Primary outcome components: Incidence of non-fatal stroke and non-fatal MI was similar with finerenone vs placebo

Non-fatal MI (time to first event)



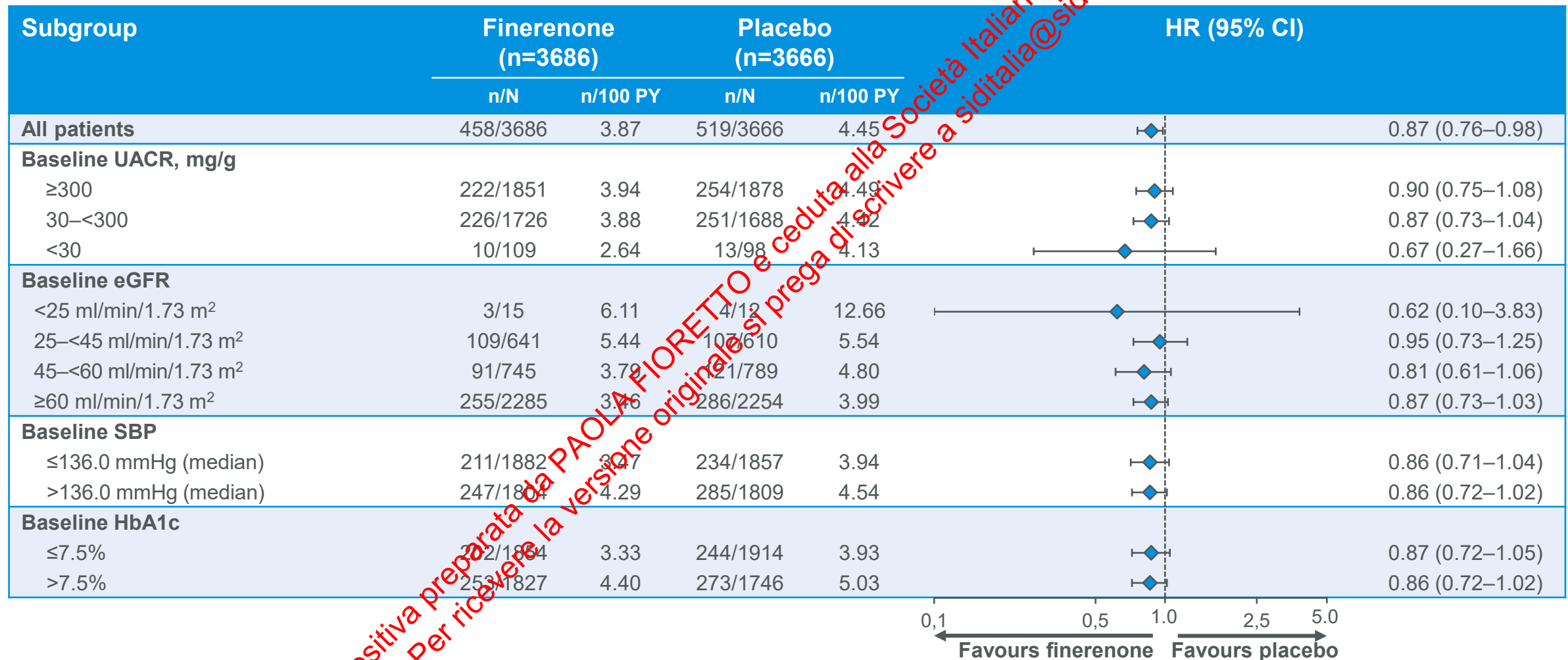
No. at risk										
3686	3635	3579	3522	3432	2896	2293	1809	1155	632	
3666	3623	3559	3491	3404	2858	2240	1757	1135	620	

Non-fatal stroke (time to first event)



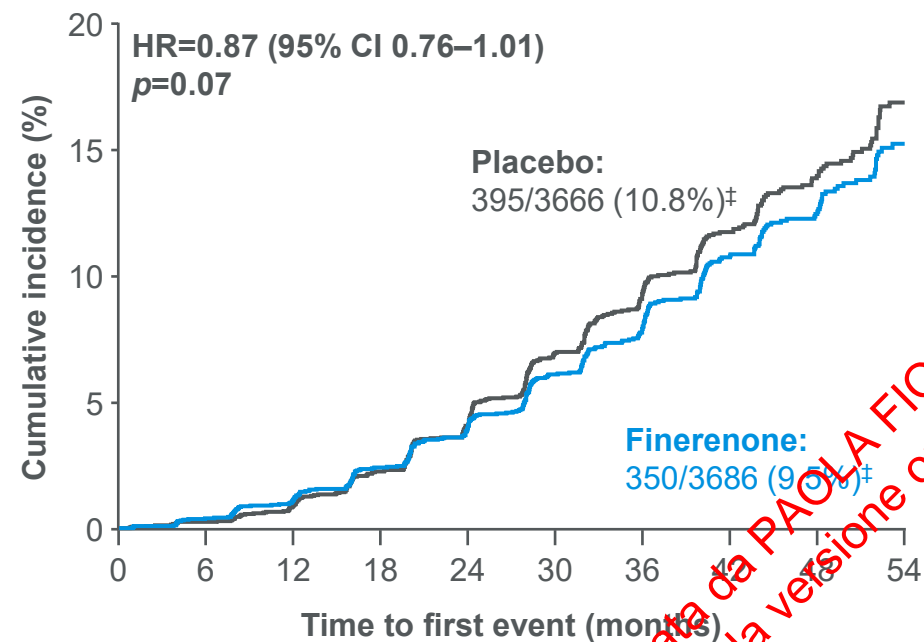
No. at risk										
3686	3635	3581	3523	3433	2896	2285	1795	1145	620	
3666	3614	3548	3482	3388	2860	2240	1753	1134	620	

The effects of finerenone on the primary outcome were consistent regardless of baseline UACR, eGFR, blood pressure or HbA1c



Finerenone numerically reduced the risk of both the secondary and exploratory additional composite kidney outcomes

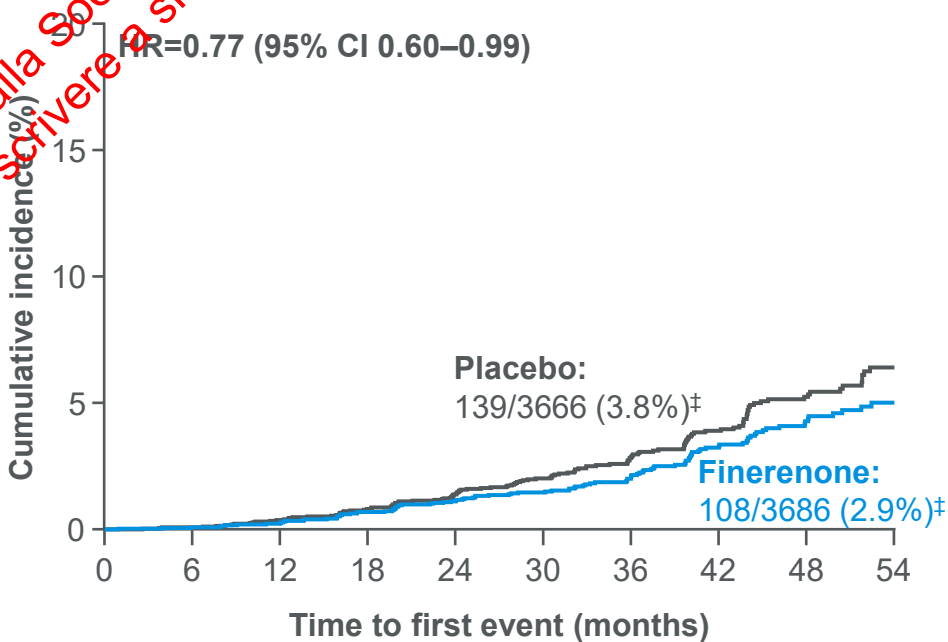
Secondary kidney composite outcome:
Time to kidney failure*, sustained $\geq 40\%$ decrease in eGFR from baseline, or renal death[#]



No. at risk

Finerenone	3686	3550	3445	3301	3131	2541	1941	1481	908	480
Placebo	3666	3546	3436	3282	3096	2507	1933	1443	907	485

Exploratory, additional kidney outcome:
Time to kidney failure*, sustained $\geq 57\%$ decrease in eGFR from baseline, or renal death[#]



No. at risk

3686	3559	3474	3356	3218	2651	2047	1582	973	522
3666	3552	3452	3325	3178	2615	2039	1538	970	520

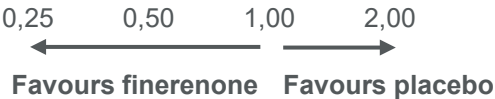
Finerenone had consistent effects on the components of both the secondary and exploratory additional kidney outcomes

Components of the secondary kidney composite

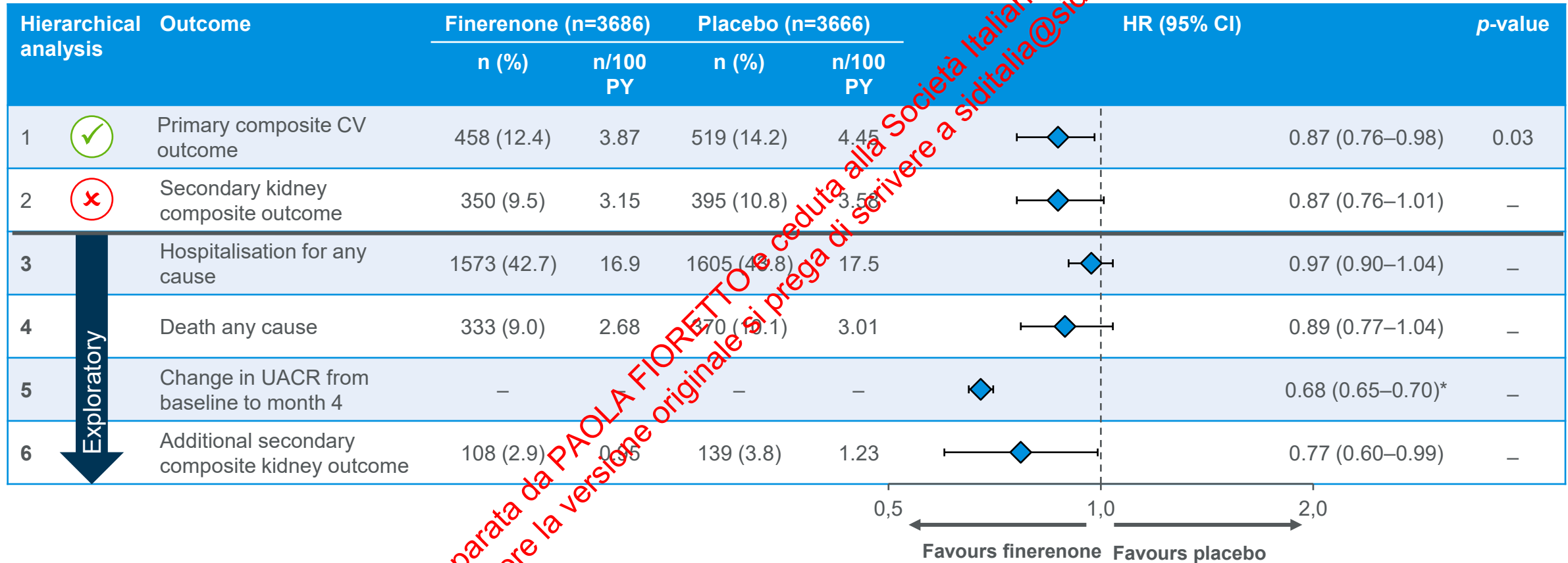
Outcome	Finerenone (n=3686)		Placebo (n=3666)		HR (95% CI)	
	n (%)	n/100 PY	n (%)	n/100 PY		
Secondary kidney outcome	350 (9.5)	3.15	395 (10.8)	3.58	0.87	(0.76–1.01)
Kidney failure*	46 (1.2)	0.40	62 (1.7)	0.54	0.72	(0.49–1.05)
ESKD	32 (0.9)	0.26	49 (1.3)	0.40	0.64	(0.21–1.00†)
Sustained# decrease in eGFR to <15 ml/min/1.73 m²	28 (0.8)	0.24	38 (1.0)	0.33	0.71	(0.43–1.16)
Sustained# ≥40% decrease in eGFR	338 (9.2)	3.04	385 (10.5)	3.49	0.87	(0.75–1.00)
Renal death	0	–	2 (<0.1)		–	

Components of the exploratory additional kidney composite

	Finerenone (n=3686)	Placebo (n=3666)	HR (95% CI)	
Secondary kidney composite	108 (2.9)	139 (3.8)	0.77	(0.60–0.99)
Kidney failure*	46 (1.2)	62 (1.7)	0.72	(0.49–1.05)
Sustained# ≥57% decrease in eGFR	90 (2.4)	116 (3.2)	0.76	(0.58–1.00)
Renal death	0	2 (<0.1)	–	



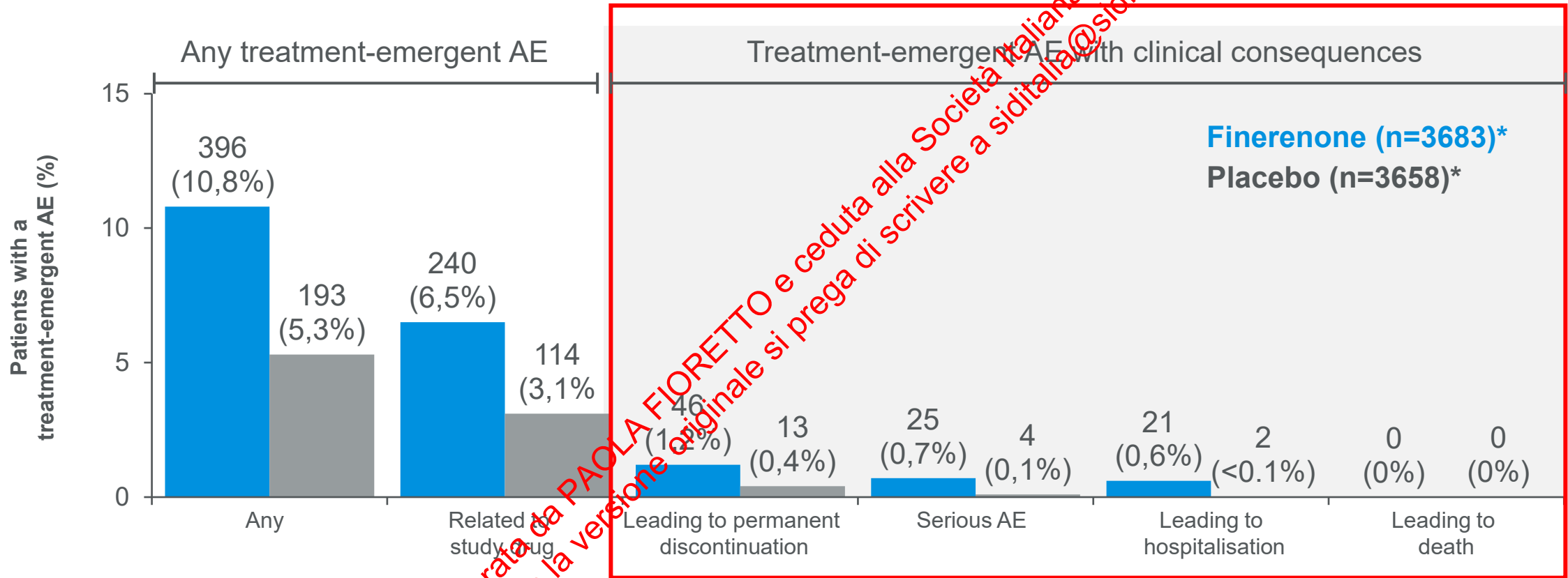
The risk of the secondary kidney composite outcome was similar between groups – subsequent outcomes are exploratory



The overall incidence of treatment-emergent adverse events was similar between the finerenone and placebo groups

Treatment-emergent adverse events, n (%)	Finerenone (n=3683)*	Placebo (n=3658)*
Any AE	3134 (85.4)	3129 (85.5)
AE related to study drug	560 (15.2)	413 (11.3)
AE leading to treatment discontinuation	407 (5.6)	183 (5.0)
Any serious AE	1158 (31.4)	1215 (33.2)
Serious AE related to study drug	35 (1.0)	27 (0.7)
Serious AE leading to treatment discontinuation	70 (1.9)	76 (2.1)
AE with outcome death	79 (2.1)	100 (2.7)

Although investigator-reported hyperkalaemia was increased with finerenone, the clinical impact was minimal

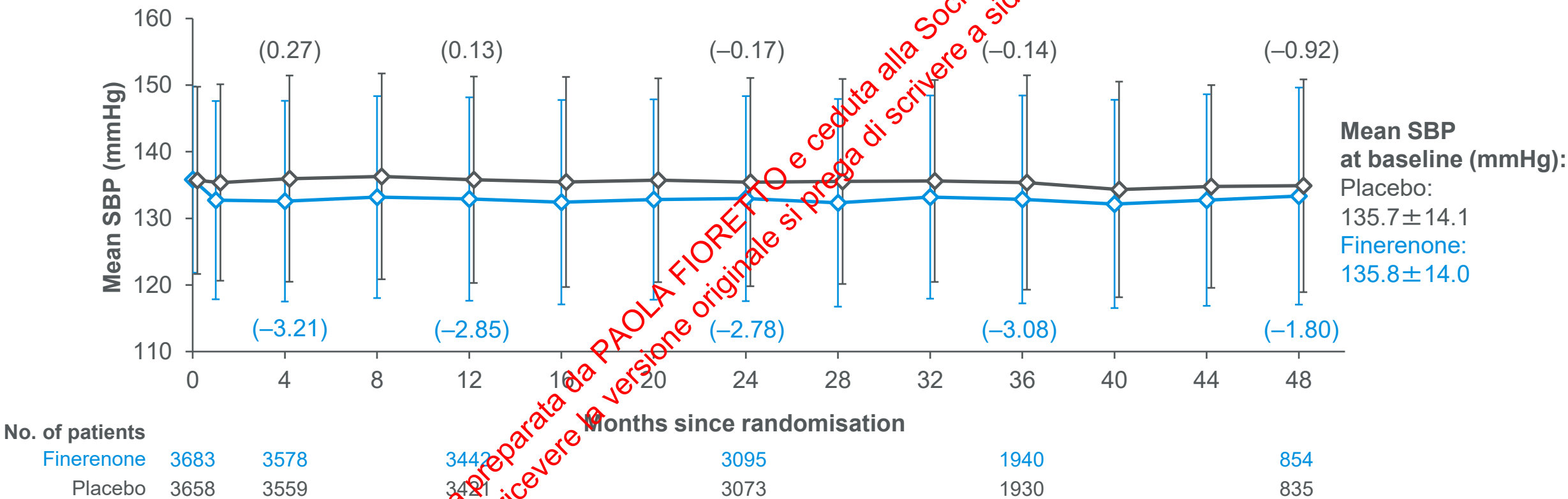


investigator-reported AEs relating to hyperkalaemia[#]

There were no deaths due to hyperkalaemia, and the incidences of treatment discontinuation or hospitalisation due to hyperkalaemia were low

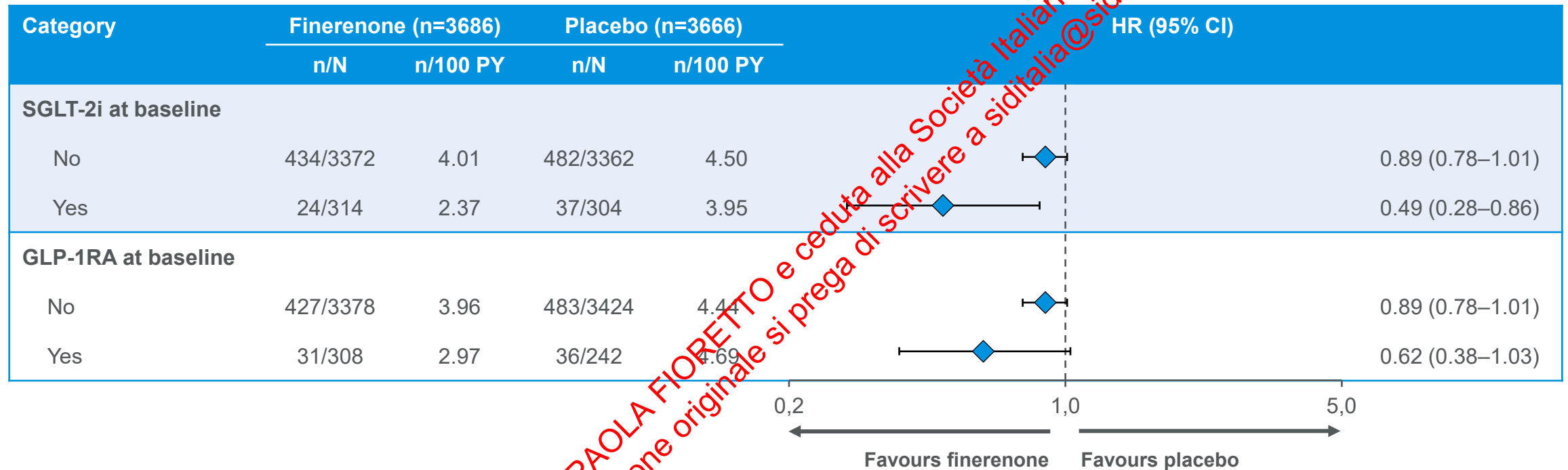
Finerenone had a modest impact on blood pressure

The difference in mean SBP*# between groups was -3.5 mmHg at month 4 and -3.0 mmHg at month 12‡



• Bakris GL, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2020;383:2219–2229

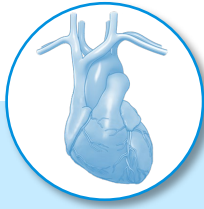
The effects of finerenone on the primary outcome were consistent regardless of baseline use of SGLT-2is or GLP-1RAs



- Confidence intervals are wide in the combination therapy subgroups because of the small patient numbers and low event rates
- **Meaningful conclusions on combination therapies are not possible**

Summary

In a patient population with mild-to-moderate CKD and T2D, well-controlled blood pressure and HbA1c, and treated with a maximum tolerated dose of an ACEi or ARB, finerenone led to:



13% (statistically significant)
reduction in the risk of CV mortality
and morbidity
(HR=0.87; 95% CI 0.76–0.98)



13% (non-statistically significant)
reduction in the risk of the
≥40% decrease in eGFR
secondary kidney endpoint
(HR=0.87; 95% CI 0.76–1.01)

These results are supported by the
effect of finerenone on the exploratory
kidney-specific outcomes



Finerenone was generally
well tolerated

Although the incidence of
hyperkalaemia was increased, it had
minimal clinical impact and was
manageable by temporarily
withholding treatment*

Adding to the evidence for the cardiorenal benefits of finerenone in the FIDELIO-DKD trial, the results of the FIGARO-DKD trial indicate that finerenone is an effective investigational treatment option for CV and kidney protection in patients with CKD stage 1–4 and T2D

FIGARO-DKD and FIDELIO-DKD investigated the effects of finerenone on kidney and CV outcomes in over 13,000 patients with CKD and T2D



48 countries

R

13,171 patients randomised in FIDELITY

Finerenone 10 or 20 mg od[#]

Placebo

Patients
randomised

 **FIGARO-DKD¹**

7437

 **FIDELIO-DKD²**

5734



FIGARO-DKD¹



FIDELIO-DKD²

**Clinical
efficacy
primary
endpoint**



Composite endpoint:
Time to CV death, non-fatal
MI, non-fatal stroke or HHF



Composite endpoint:
Time to kidney failure,
sustained $\geq 40\%$ eGFR
decline or renal death

**Key
secondary
endpoint**



Same as primary endpoint
in **FIDELIO-DKD**



Same as primary endpoint
in **FIGARO-DKD**



FIDELITY³

Prespecified pooled analysis

Key outcomes



CV composite:

Time to CV death, non-fatal
MI, non-fatal stroke or HHF

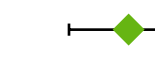
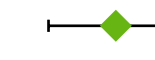


57% kidney composite:

Time to kidney failure,
sustained $\geq 57\%$ eGFR
decline or renal death

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Finerenone had consistent effects on the components of the kidney composite outcome

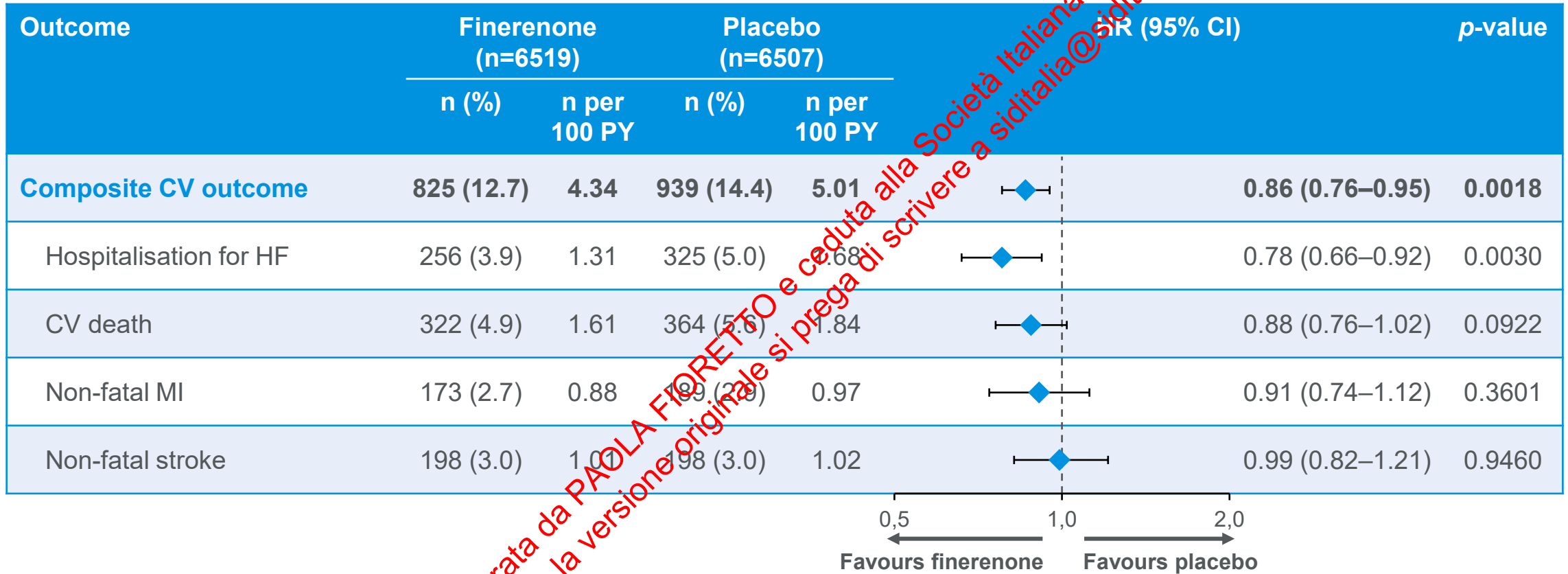
Outcome	Finerenone (n=6519)		Placebo (n=6507)		HR (95% CI)	p-value
	n (%)	n per 100 PY	n (%)	n per 100 PY		
≥57% eGFR kidney composite outcome	360 (5.5)	1.96	465 (7.1)	2.55		0.77 (0.67–0.88) 0.0002
Kidney failure*	254 (3.9)	1.38	297 (4.6)	1.62		0.84 (0.71–0.99) 0.039
ESKD	151 (2.3)	0.76	188 (2.9)	0.96		0.80 (0.64–0.99) 0.040 [#]
Sustained [‡] decrease in eGFR to <15 ml/min/1.73 m ²	195 (3.0)	1.06	237 (3.6)	1.29		0.81 (0.67–0.98) 0.026 [#]
Sustained [#] ≥57% decrease in eGFR from baseline	257 (3.9)	1.40	361 (5.5)	1.98		0.70 (0.60–0.83) <0.0001
Renal death	2 (<0.1)	0.01	4 (<0.1)	0.02		0.53 (0.10–2.91) [§] –

0.5 1 2

Favours finerenone Favours placebo

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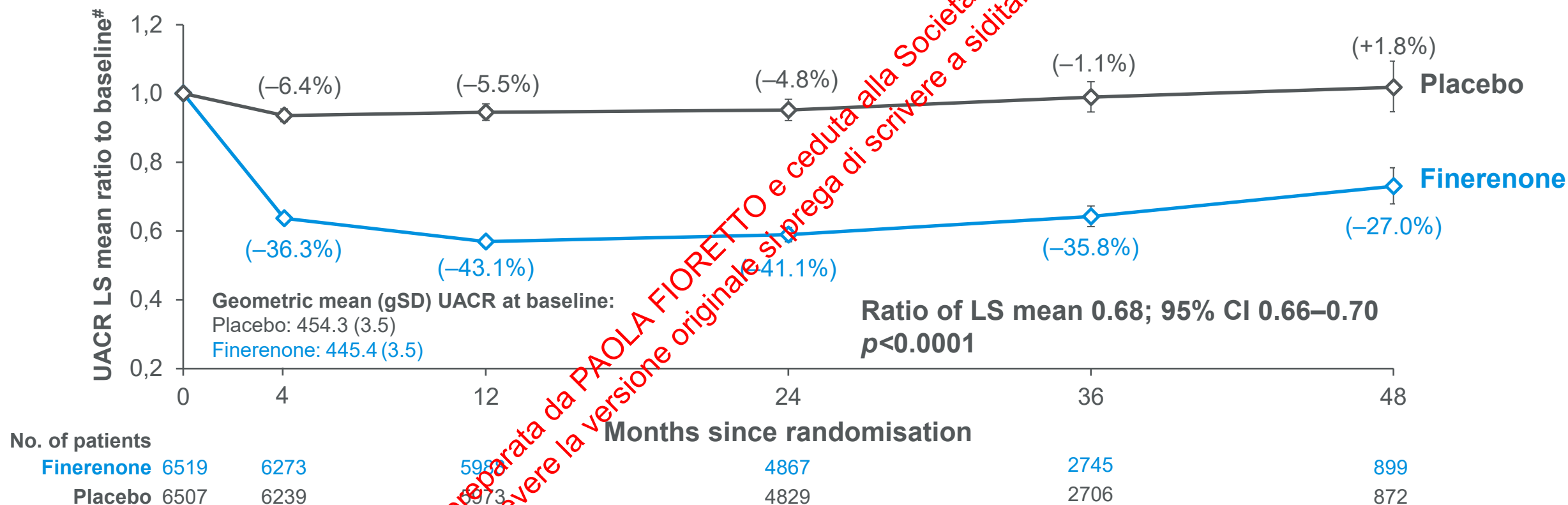
Finerenone had consistent effects on the components of the CV composite outcome



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Effects of Finerenone on UACR

A lower mean UACR with finerenone vs placebo was maintained throughout the study



Finerenone showed modest effects on SBP and no imbalance in sexual side effects. Overall AEs were similar between groups



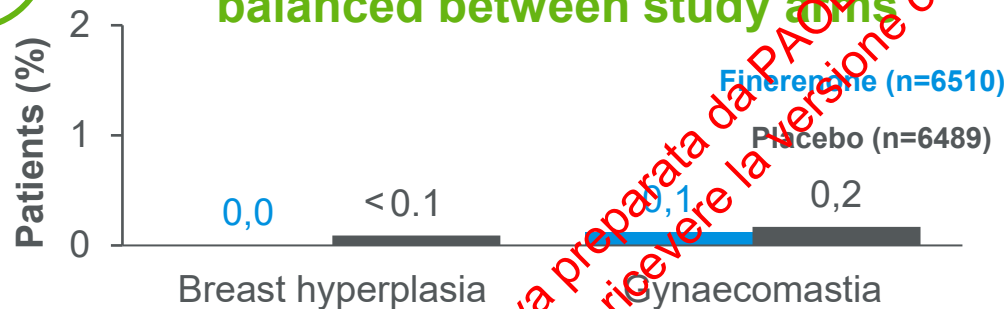
Modest effect on systolic blood pressure and no effect on HbA1c



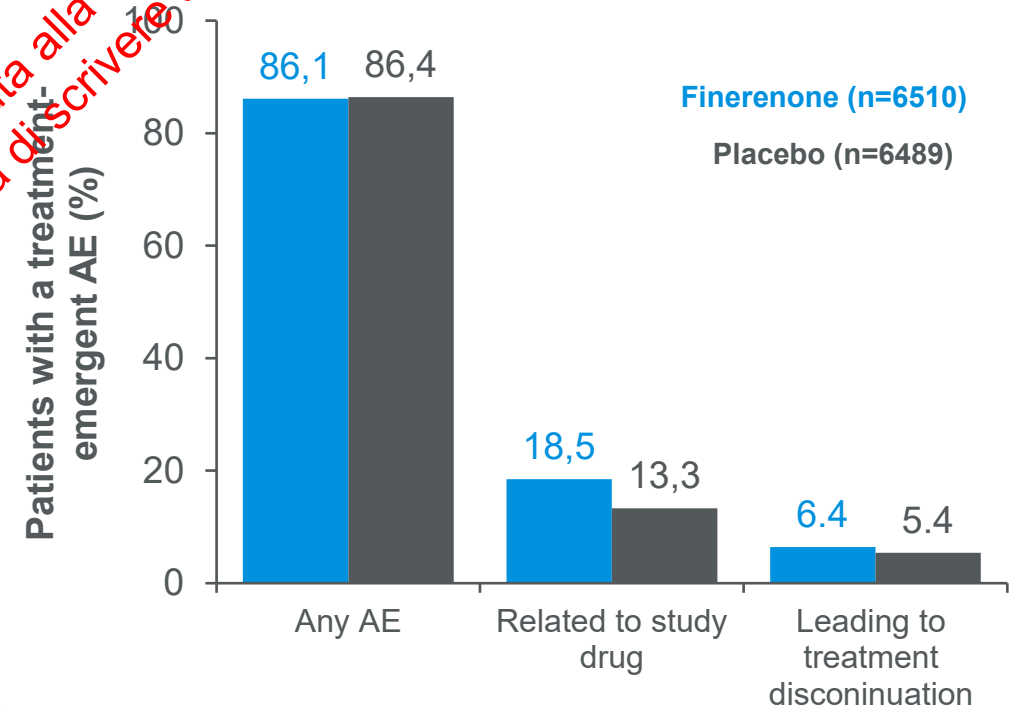
Placebo-corrected change in mean SBP of **-3.7 mmHg** at 4 months



Sexual side effects were low and balanced between study arms

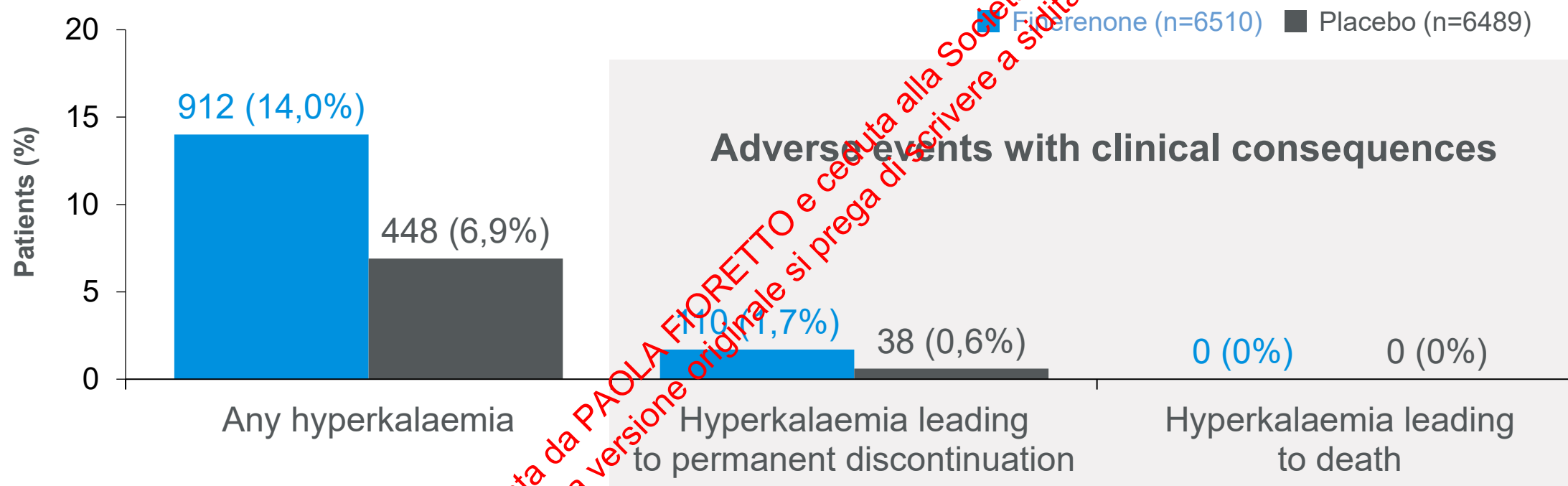


Incidence of AEs were similar between the finerenone and placebo groups



In FIDELITY, finerenone increased hyperkalaemia

Investigator-reported hyperkalaemia adverse events*1

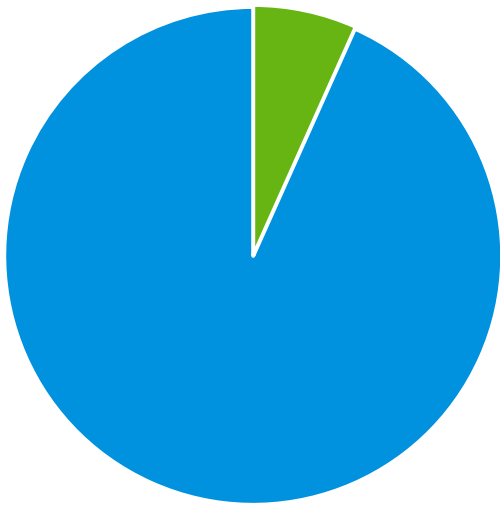


With a robust $[K^+]$ management strategy guided by regular serum $[K^+]$ monitoring, there were no hyperkalaemia-related deaths in over 13,000 patients over 3 years median follow-up¹⁻⁴

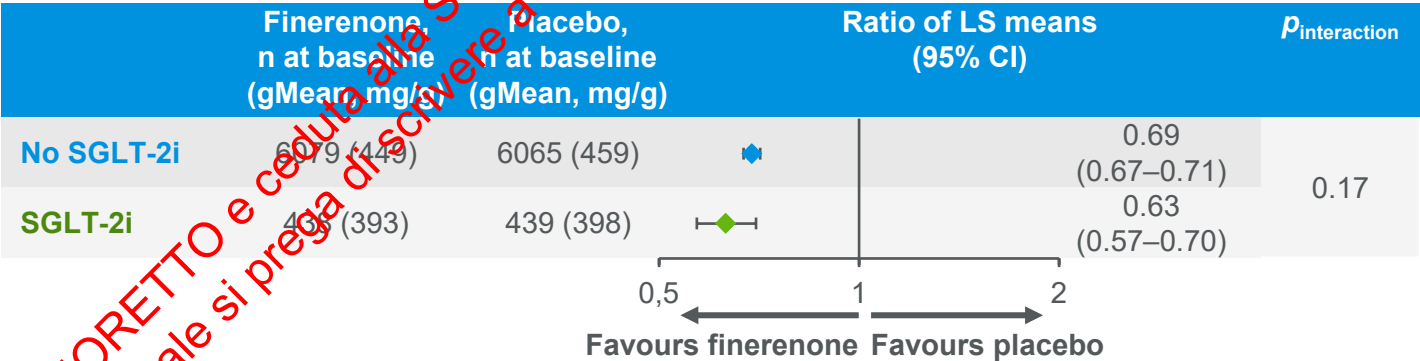
In FIDELITY, the effect of finerenone on UACR reduction was similar in patients treated with or without an SGLT-2i at baseline

- SGLT-2i use at baseline

877 (6.7%) patients
on an SGLT-2i



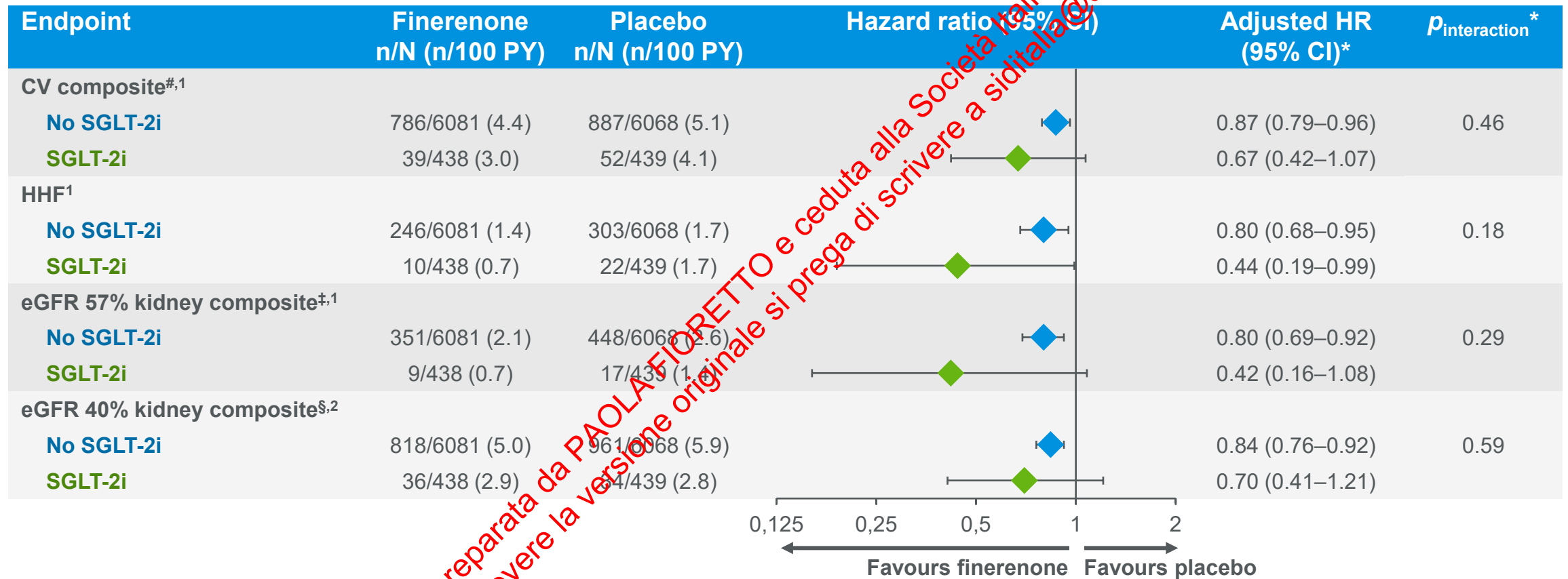
- Reduction in UACR with finerenone vs placebo at month 4



Although non-significant, the **larger UACR reduction** observed in **patients treated with finerenone in combination with SGLT-2is (37%)** vs those treated with finerenone alone (31%) suggests a **potential synergistic effect**

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In FIDELITY, the CV and kidney benefits of finerenone were consistent irrespective of SGLT-2i use at baseline



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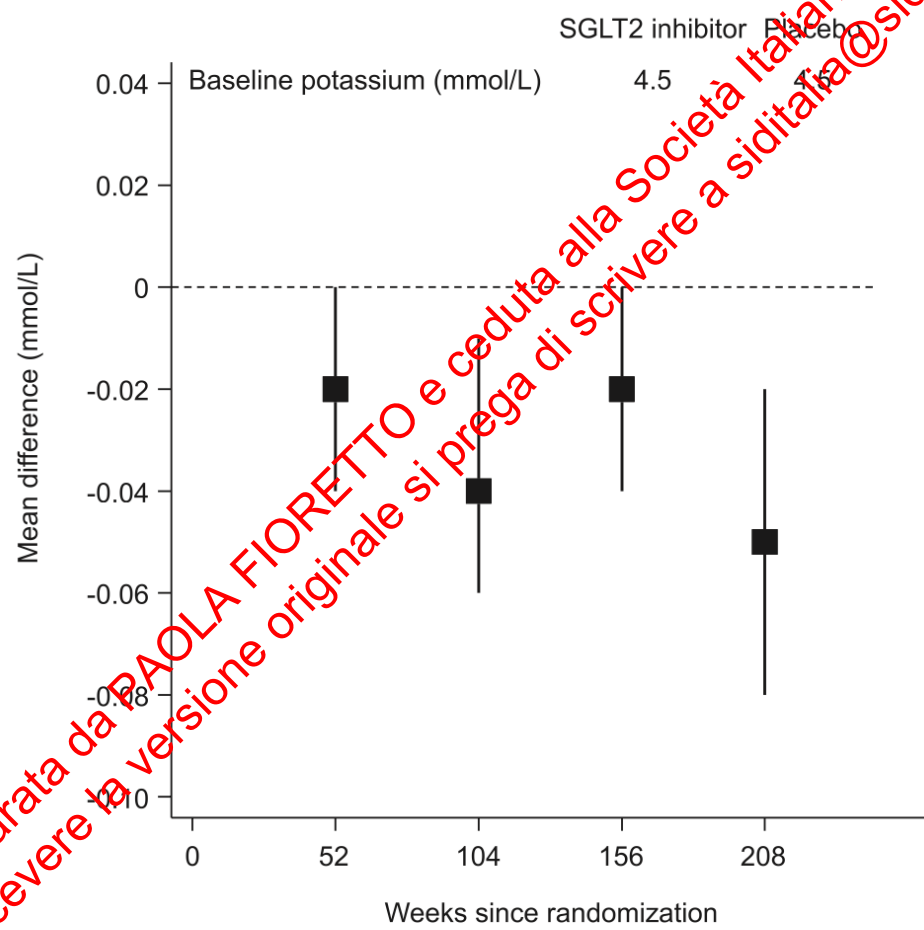
Overall safety outcomes were consistent irrespective of baseline SGLT-2i use

Treatment-emergent AE, n (%)	No SGLT-2i		SGLT-2i	
	Finerenone (n=6072)	Placebo (n=6090)	Finerenone (n=438)	Placebo (n=439)
Any AE	5204 (85.7)	5229 (86.3)	398 (90.9)	384 (87.5)
Leading to discontinuation	396 (6.5)	328 (5.4)	18 (4.1)	23 (5.2)
Any SAE	1914 (31.5)	2045 (33.8)	146 (33.3)	141 (32.1)
Leading to discontinuation	138 (2.3)	146 (2.4)	7 (1.6)	8 (1.8)
AE resulting in death	108 (1.8)	142 (2.3)	2 (0.5)	9 (2.1)
Hyperkalaemia, n (%)				
Any AE	567 (14.3)	436 (7.2)	45 (10.3)	12 (2.7)
Leading to discontinuation	105 (1.7)	35 (0.6)	5 (1.1)	3 (0.7)
Leading to hospitalisation	39 (1.4)	8 (0.3)	1 (0.8)	0

Incidence of **hyperkalaemia** was **lower** in those **receiving an SGLT-2i** at baseline; however, incidence of hyperkalaemia leading to **discontinuation or hospitalisation** was **low across groups**

Meta-analysis on SGLT2i and risk of hyperkalemia change from baseline in serum potassium

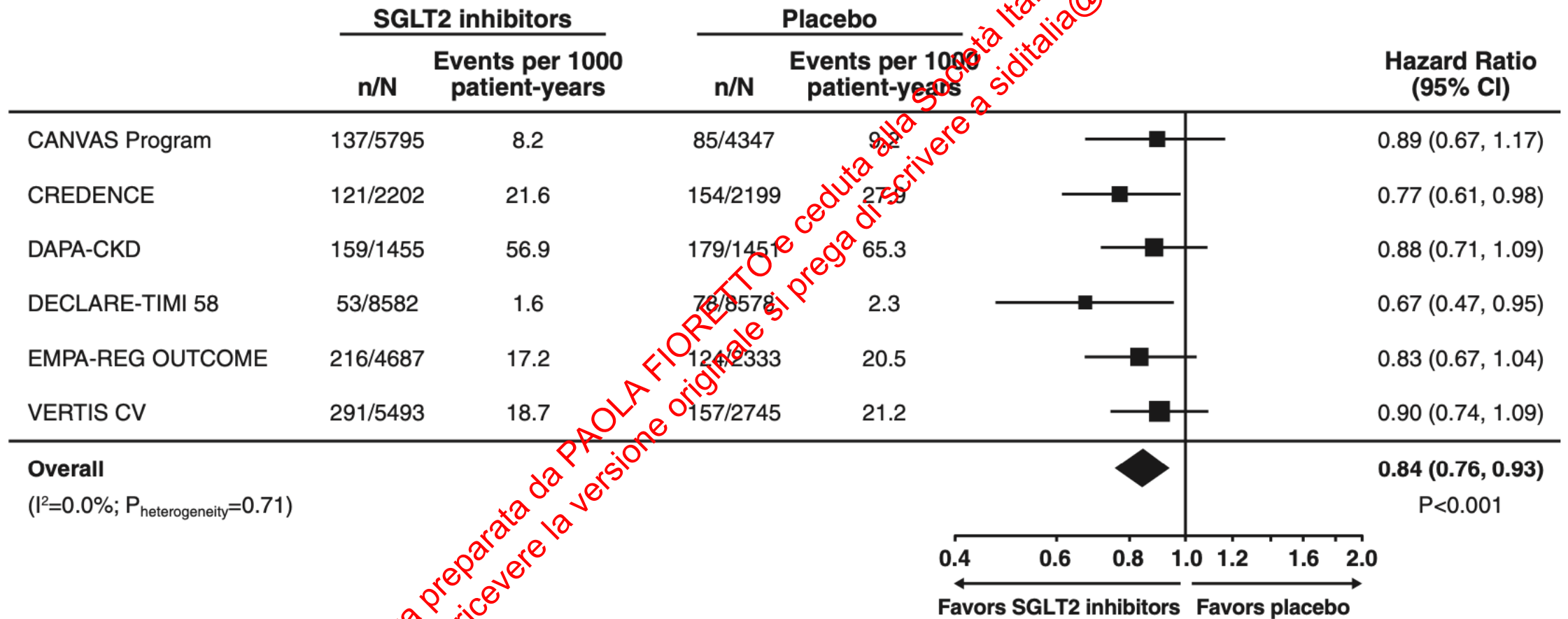
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Number of participants					
SGLT2 inhibitor	27970	17672	14490	11133	7354
Placebo	21423	11950	9518	4222	5031

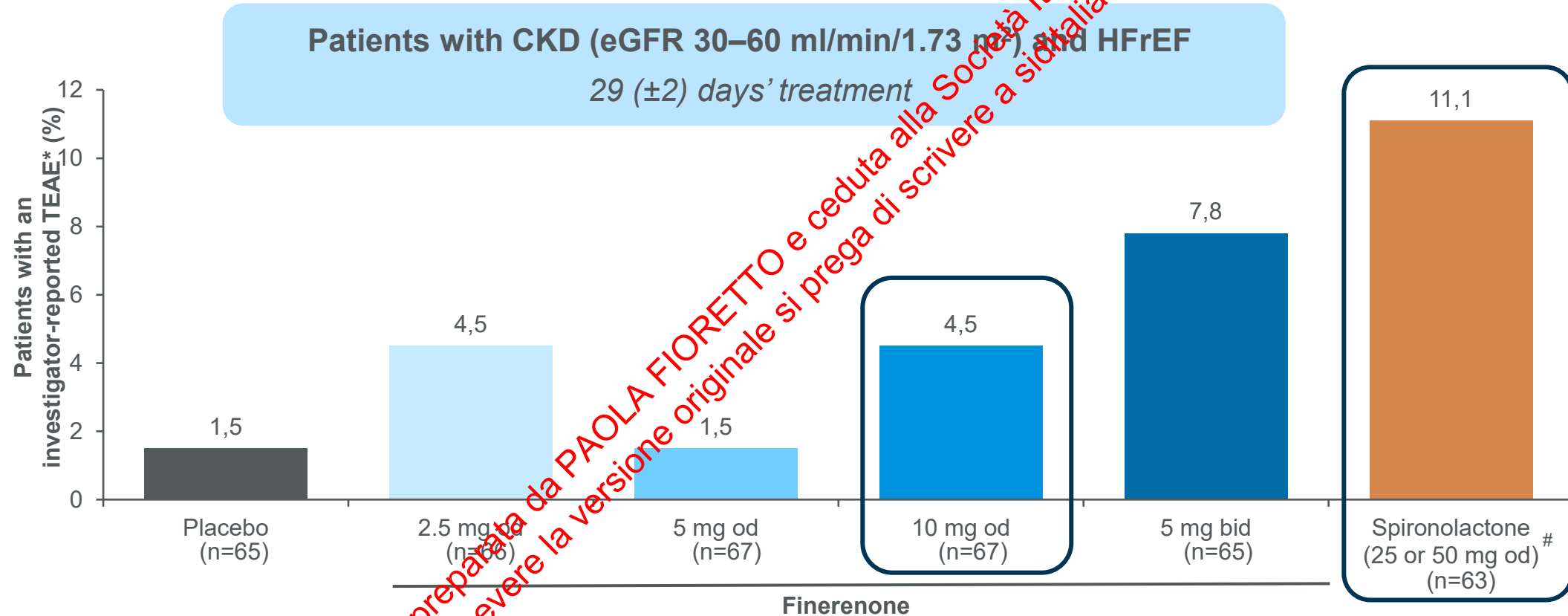
Meta-analysis on SGLT2i and risk of hyperkalemia

effects of SGLT2i on serious hyperkalemia



In the phase II ARTS trial, finerenone was associated with lower rates of hyperkalaemia than spironolactone

ARTS Part B (phase II)



Post hoc analysis provided an indirect comparison of the effects of finerenone and spironolactone on SBP and [K⁺] outcomes^{*,1}



To indirectly compare the effects of finerenone and spironolactone on SBP and [K⁺] outcomes in a matched patient population with resistant hypertension and moderate-to-advanced CKD

• CKD eligibility criteria[#]

GFR (ml/min/1.73 m ²)	UACR (mg/g)		
	0–29	30–299	300–≤5000
>90			
60–89			
45–59			
30–44	N=295	N=624	
15–29			

■ **FIDELITY–TRH subgroup**
(eGFR and UACR criteria)

■ **AMBER** (eGFR criterion only)²

• Other key eligibility criteria



TRH



- ✓ SBP 135–160 mmHg at baseline
- ✓ ≥3 antihypertensives, including a diuretic and a RASi at baseline
- ✓ Serum [K⁺] 4.5–5.1 mmol/l at baseline



**Treated with
an NSAID or
[K⁺]-affecting
medication at baseline**



Outcome assessment

- Change from baseline to month 4 in **SBP**
- Serum [K⁺] ≥5.5 mmol/l
- Hyperkalaemia leading to treatment discontinuation

FIDELITY-TRH

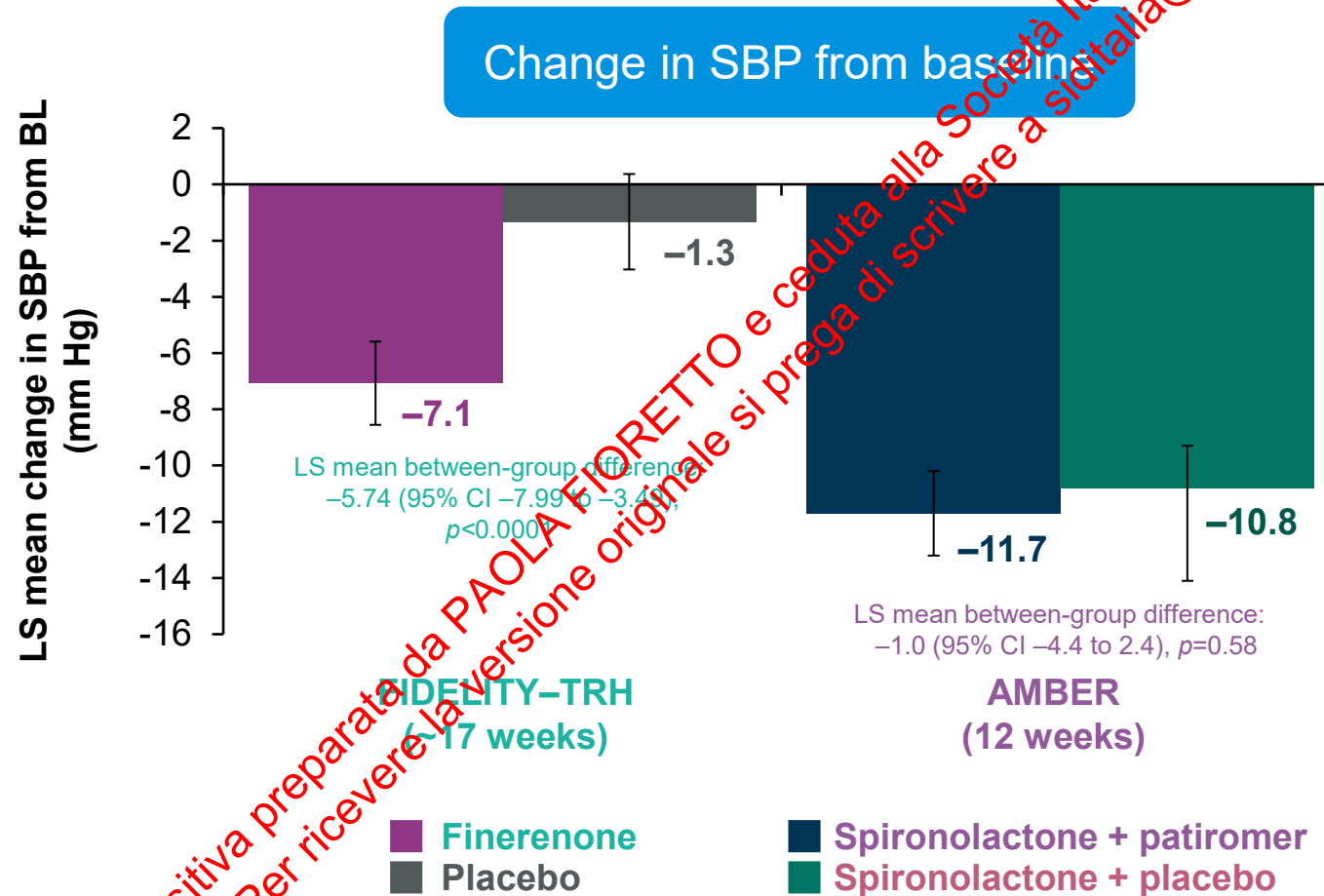
At 4 months (~17 weeks)

AMBER²

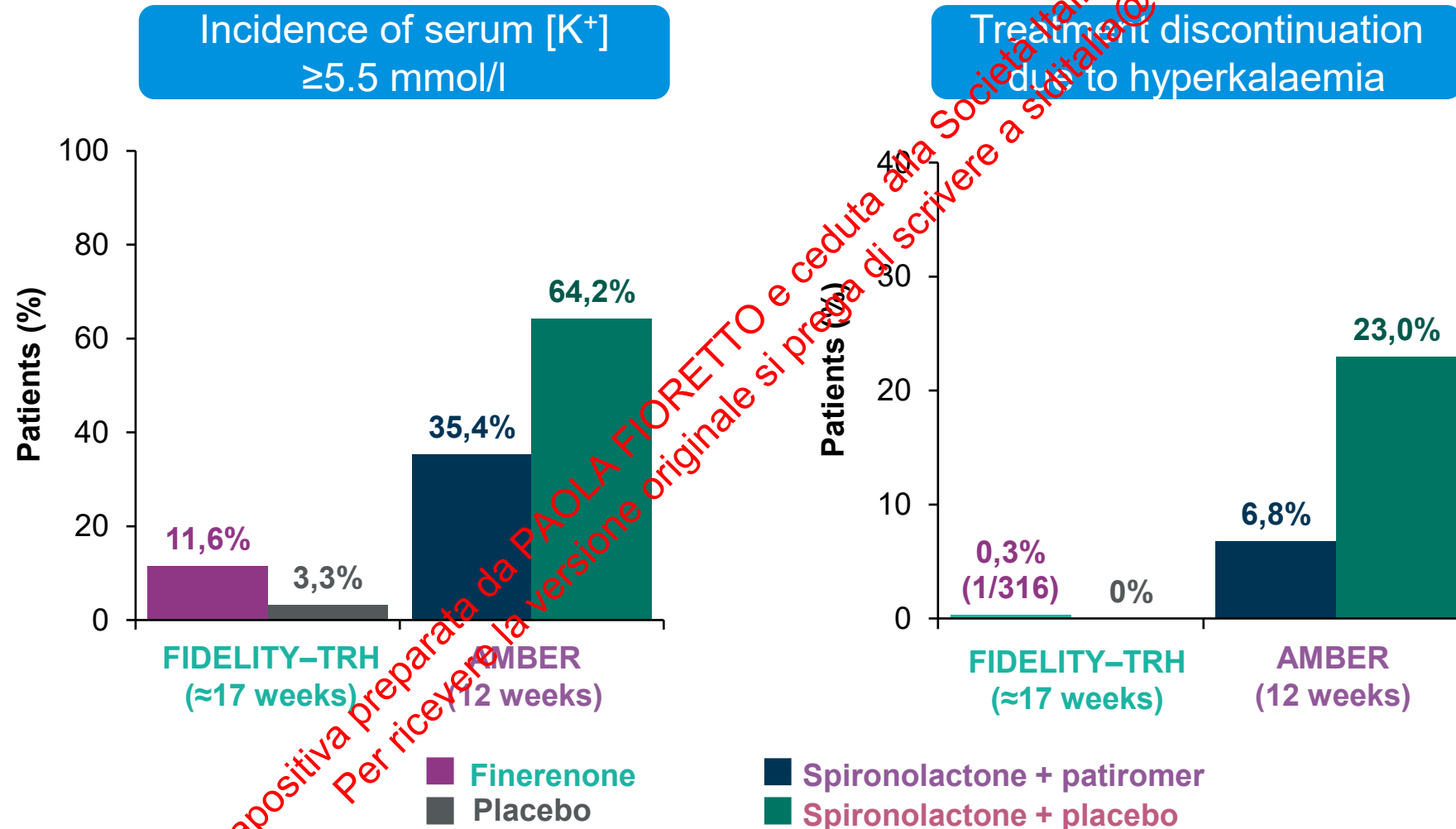
At 12 weeks

Diapositiva preparata da PAOLA FIORETTI e ceduta alla Società Italiana di Diabetologia.
Per ricevere la versione originale si prega di scrivere a paola.fioretti@siditalia.it

Finerenone is associated with a reduction in SBP, although reductions were smaller than those achieved with spironolactone with or without a potassium-binding agent



Finerenone may be associated with a lower risk of hyperkalaemia than spironolactone ± potassium-binding agent during the first 4 months of treatment



Association of Finerenone Use With Reduction in Treatment-Emergent Pneumonia and COVID-19 Adverse Events Among Patients With Type 2 Diabetes and Chronic Kidney Disease

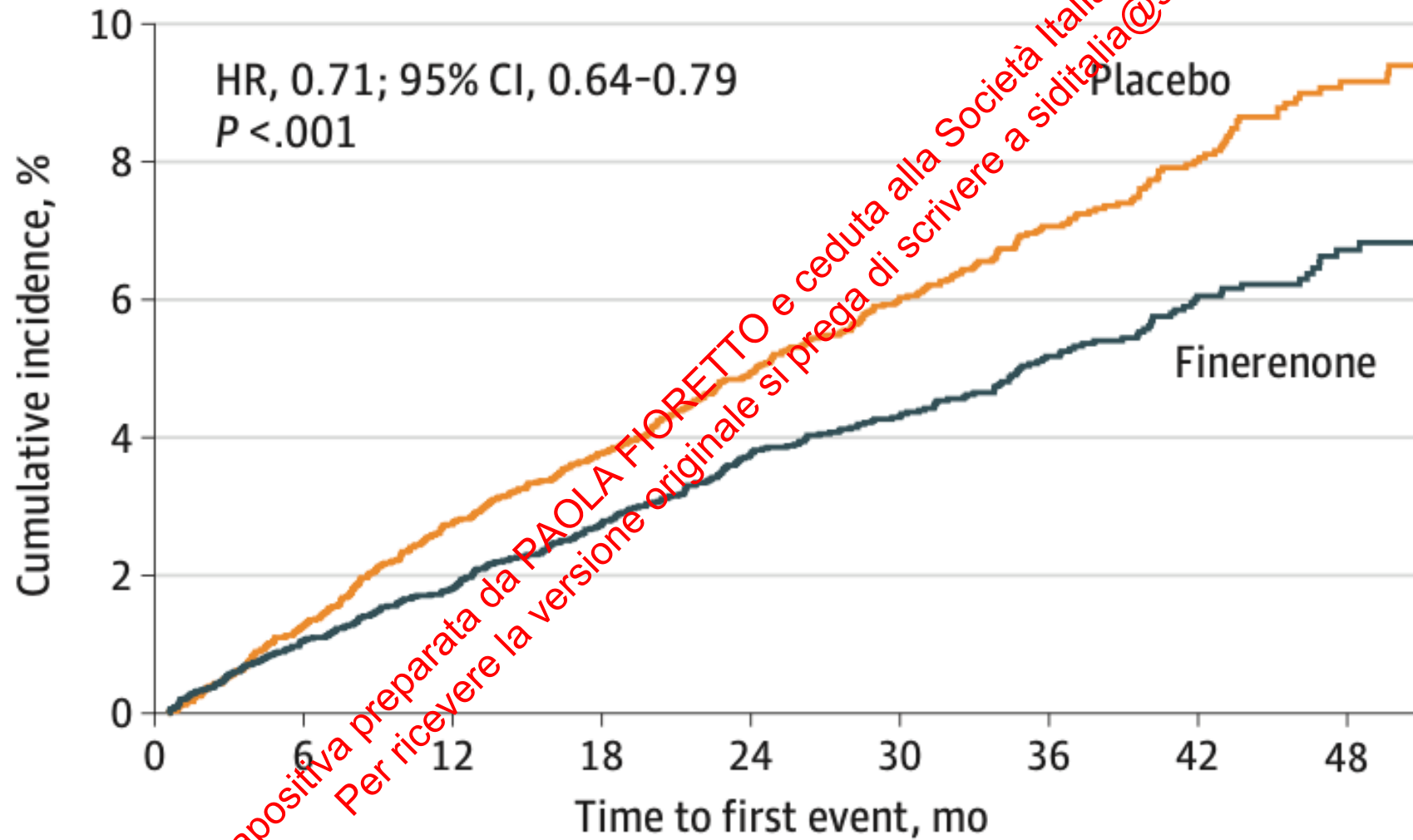
A FIDELITY Pooled Secondary Analysis

Bertram Pitt, MD; Rajiv Agarwal, MD; Stefan D. Anker, MD; Luis M. Ruilope, MD; Peter Rossing, MD; Christiane Ahlers, DiplStat; Meike Brinker, MD; Amer Joseph, MBBS; Marc Lambelet, DiplMath; Robert Lawatscheck, MD; Gerasimos S. Filippatos, MD; for the FIDELIO-DKD and FIGARO-DKD Investigators

Table 2. Treatment-Emergent Pneumonia and COVID-19 AEs in the FIDELITY and FIGARO-DKD Safety-Evaluable Populations

	Finerenone		Placebo		HR (95% CI)	P value ^a
Outcome	Patients, No. (%)	Events, No./100 PY	Patients, No. (%)	Events, No./100 PY		
FIDELITY						
No.	6510	NA	6489	NA	NA	NA
Pneumonia ^b						
AE	307 (4.7)	1.88	434 (6.7)	2.64	0.71 (0.64-0.79)	<.001
SAE	171 (2.6)	1.03	250 (3.9)	1.50	0.69 (0.60-0.79)	<.001
Fatal AE	10 (0.2)	0.06	13 (0.2)	0.08	0.78 (0.44-1.40)	.41
COVID-19 ^b						
AE	86 (1.3)	0.43	118 (1.8)	0.59	0.73 (0.60-0.89)	.002
SAE	38 (0.6)	0.19	61 (0.9)	0.30	0.63 (0.47-0.83)	.001
Fatal AE	14 (0.2)	0.07	19 (0.3)	0.09	0.74 (0.46-1.21)	.23

TIME TO TREATMENT EMERGENT PNEUMONIA



Ongoing studies with Finerenone

Trial Name	NCT Number	Indication	Planned Enrollment	Primary Endpoint	Estimated Study Completion
FINE-REAL	NCT05348733	CKD and T2D	4000	Treatment patterns *	February 2026
CONFIDENCE	NCT05254002	CKD and T2D	897	Relative change in UACR from baseline to 180 days	January 2024
FIND-CKD	NCT05047263	Nondiabetic CKD	1580	Mean rate change of total eGFR slope from baseline to month 32	December 2025
FIONA	NCT05196035	Pediatric CKD	219	≥30% UPCR reduction from baseline to day 180	September 2026
FINEARTS-HF	NCT04435626	HF with LVEF ≥40%	5500	CV death and HF events	May 2024

Recommendations of Finerenone use in diabetic chronic kidney disease

Scientific Society	Year	Recommendation	Grade
 American Diabetes Association®	2023	In people with chronic kidney disease and albuminuria who are at increased risk for cardiovascular events or chronic kidney disease progression, a nonsteroidal mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist shown to be effective in clinical trials is recommended to reduce chronic kidney disease progression and cardiovascular events. [recommendation 11.5d]	A
 American Diabetes Association® & KDIGO consensus	2022	A nonsteroidal mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist (ns-MRA) with proven kidney and cardiovascular benefit is recommended for patients with T2D, eGFR ≥ 25 mL/min/1.73m ² , normal serum potassium concentration, and albuminuria (albumin-to-creatinine ratio [ACR] ≥ 30 mg/g) despite maximum tolerated dose of renin-angiotensin system (RAS) inhibitor	-
 KDIGO IMPROVING GLOBAL OUTCOMES®	2022	We suggest a nonsteroidal mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist with proven kidney or cardiovascular benefit for patients with T2D, an eGFR ≥ 25 mL/min per 1.73 m ² , normal serum potassium concentration, and albuminuria (≥ 30 mg/g [≥ 3 mg/mmol]) despite maximum tolerated dose of RAS inhibitor [recommendation 1.4.1]	2A
 AACE® American Association of Clinical Endocrinology	2022	A non-steroidal mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist (finerenone) with proven kidney and CVD benefits is recommended for persons with T2D, an eGFR ≥ 25 mL/min/1.73 m ² , normal serum potassium concentration, and albuminuria (ACR ≥ 30 mg/g) despite a maximum tolerated dose of a renin-angiotensin system inhibitor [recommendation 6.6]	1A